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The Nicaraguan
Democratic Resistance
Directorate

The establishment in April of the new Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance Directorate and assembly reflects the latest of several attempts over the years by anti-Sandinista leaders to create a united, more broadly based coalition. By opening up the Directorate to previously unrepresented elements of the resistance—the Southern Opposition Bloc (BOS), private sector, and Atlantic Coast peoples—rebel leaders hope to overcome criticism that the anti-Sandinista movement comprises solely conservatives, Somocistas, and wealthy exiles. Furthermore, the leadership hopes to attract more assistance and sympathy by appealing to a larger, more ideologically varied constituency inside Nicaragua and the Western democracies.

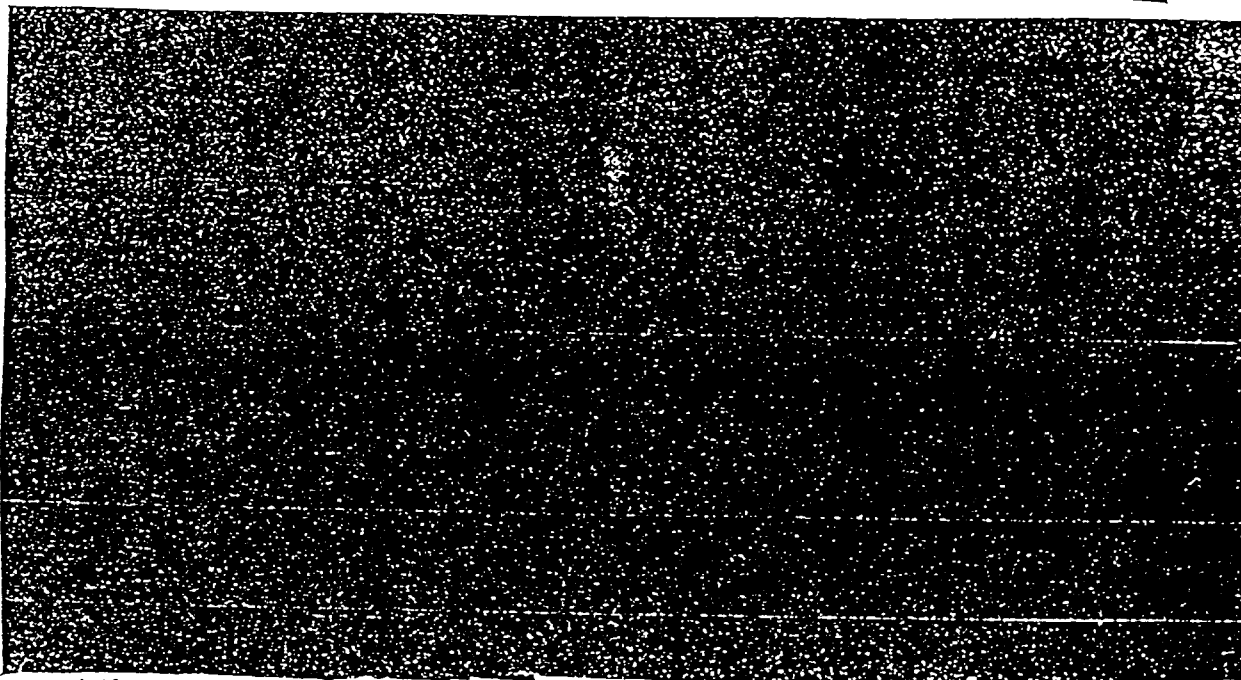
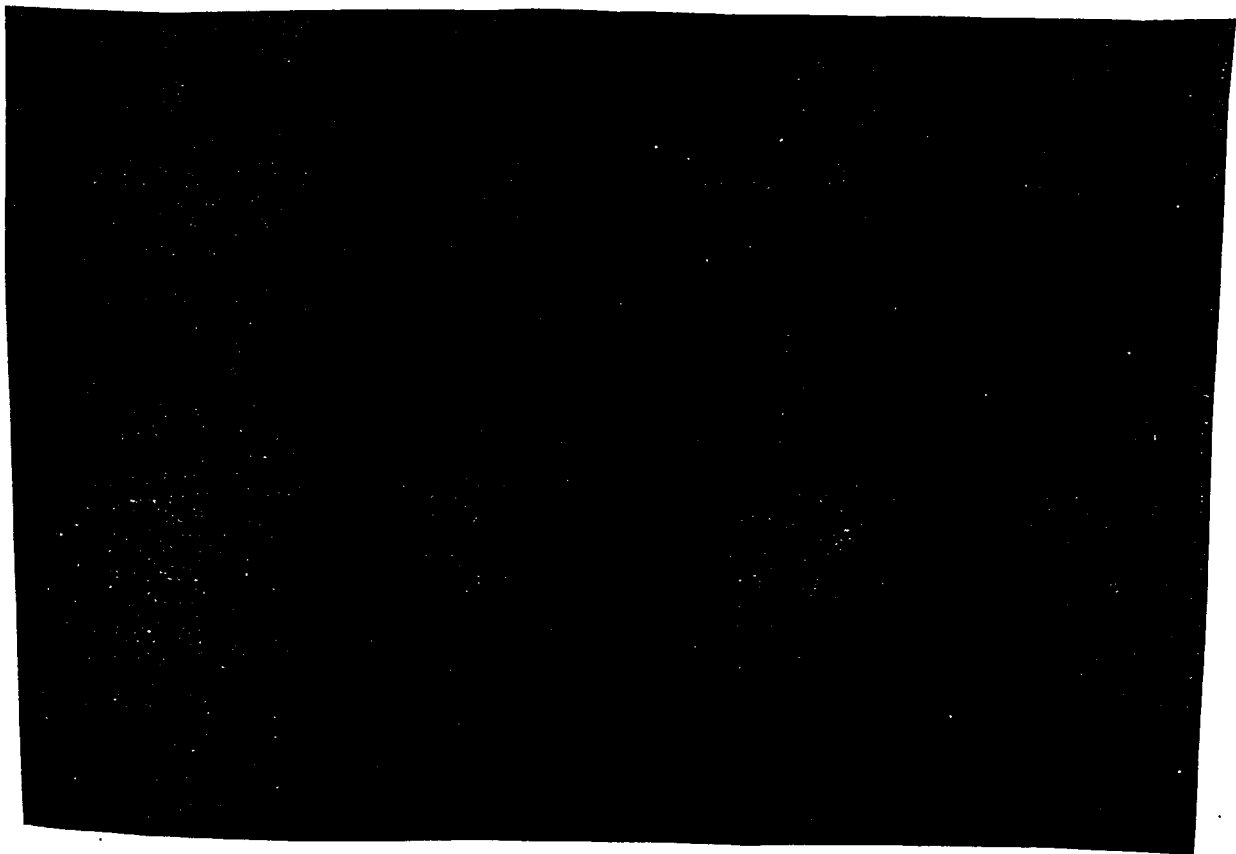
the new Directorate will have its share of problems. Ideological and personal differences could continue to hamper unity efforts and cause dissension over political initiatives and military strategy. Tensions and traditional differences between conservative and liberal factions, rivalry among Atlantic Coast Indian leaders, and distrust between Indians and the traditional ruling class may further complicate and prolong unity efforts. Control of the national army may also prove to be a point of dissension, even though the leadership has declared its will to share decisionmaking responsibilities. military matters in the Directorate will continue to be dominated by Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) leaders Adolfo Calero, Aristides Sanchez, and Enrique Bermudez.

At present, the Directorate has six members. A seventh member will represent the Atlantic Coast peoples.

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